



KENTUCKY'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMPLETE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PUZZLE

Public Library Legislative Day in Frankfort
11 February 2009

As a legislator, you are faced with tough choices as Kentucky struggles with budget deficits. We want you to know **Kentucky's public libraries are your partners in fighting this recession! Continued cuts to public libraries and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives will harm our state's ability to fight this recession.**

Here's how we assist the state in these times of economic challenge:

THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH, YOUR CONSTITUENTS ARE USING THEIR PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO:

- **Apply for jobs (all state jobs MUST be applied for on-line)**
- **Read classifieds and on-line postings**
- **Study for the GED**
- **File for:**
 - income tax returns
 - Social Security
 - unemployment benefit
- **Access to life skills:**
 - learning to drive
 - update job certification
 - take classes
 - learn to read
 - study English/Spanish language
 - develop resumes
 - learn word processing and other new job skills necessary to improve employment opportunities
- **Access to everyday needs:**
 - access e-mail
 - obtain family reading materials
 - apply for scholarships
 - take proctored examinations for school/training

**THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES
PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SERVICES PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEED TO OPERATE:**

- **Funding (to leverage local support)**
 - direct state aid
 - federal grants
 - Gates Foundation grants
 - construction grants
 - other foundation grants
- **Professional services for library boards and library employees**
 - certification of library staff providing service to the public
 - continuing education to maintain our skills
 - technology assistance
 - building consultation
 - calculation of tax rates
 - auditing and accountability
 - regional and statewide consultants to build networks among libraries and to ensure effective and efficient public library service delivery
 - consultation on legal and ethical issues
- **Assistance with programs and services that DIRECTLY touch your constituents:**
 - bookmobiles and home delivery services
 - talking books for the blind
 - large type book collections
 - book discussion kits
 - summer children's reading program
- **Approval and training of our trustees - important community leaders who guide our public libraries**

VOTE NO ON SB72

The special taxing districts are governed by responsible boards that are in compliance with Open Records and Open Meetings laws. The boards welcome participation by the citizens, advertise their taxing rates appropriately, and act as responsible stewards of the funds that are provided to them. The purposes of those funds is clear. The boards responsible for their use understand those uses far better than the fiscal court. Special taxing districts keep the use of local funds to local specialized purposes that are highly beneficial to their community. The laws governing their tax rates allow only modest increases each year. There is no reason to apply further controls upon these districts. Placing control of these tax rates in the hands of the fiscal court could undermine the mission and purposes of these districts.